1970. No. 307 [C]

POULTRY

Poultry Stock Licences (Hatcheries)

REGULATIONS, DATED 17TH NOVEMBER 1970, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTIONS 3, 4 AND 5 AND THE SCHEDULE OF THE POULTRY IMPROVEMENT ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1968.

The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Sections 3, 4 and 5 and the Schedule of the Poultry Improvement Act (Northern Ireland) 1968(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after such consultation as is required by Section 12(1) of the said Act and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Poultry Stock Licences (Hatcheries) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1971.

Revocation

2. The Poultry Hatcheries Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1950(b), the Poultry Hatcheries (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1964(c) and the Poultry Hatcheries (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967(d) are hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In these Regulations:

"breeding stock" means chicks produced primarily for the production of hatching eggs or breeding stock;

"commercial stock" means chicks produced for purposes other than for breeding;

"disease" includes any disease which in the opinion of the Ministry would constitute a hazard to the health of poultry in Northern Ireland whether or not within the definition of disease contained in the Diseases of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(e);

"licence" means a Poultry Stock Licence issued for a hatchery; and

"licensed poultry farm" means premises where poultry are kept under the authority of a Poultry Stock Licence issued for Breeding and Rearing Farms(f).

New Hatcheries

4. Where a person proposes to operate a hatchery which has not previously been licensed as such he shall submit to the Ministry plans and specifications for the premises, equipment and utensils and no licence shall be issued unless the Ministry has approved such plans and specifications.

(a) 1968. c. 12 (N.I.).
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1950, No. 152.
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964, No. 126.
(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1967, No. 210.
(e) 1958. c. 13.
(f) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970, No. 306.

Distance of premises from poultry

5.—(1) No hatchery not licensed as such before the coming into effect of these Regulations shall be so used unless situated at a distance of not less than fifty metres from the boundary of any premises on which poultry are kept.

(2) No poultry nor any avian species shall be kept within fifty metres of a hatchery by a licence holder or any person in his employ.

Bringing in of eggs and poultry

6.—(1) Chicks or poultry or carcases or specimens thereof shall not be brought into a hatchery.

(2) Unless otherwise authorised by the Ministry only eggs obtained from licensed poultry farms shall be brought into a hatchery for incubation.

(3) From 1st January 1973 no eggs for hatching shall be brought into a hatchery except in new containers or in containers which have on each occasion prior to use been cleansed and disinfected to a reasonable standard approved by the Ministry.

(4) Only eggs which have been fumigated to the satisfaction of the Ministry in a hatchery shall be incubated.

(5) Eggs for hatching as breeding stock shall not be incubated in the same hatchery as eggs for commercial stock.

(6) Eggs which are dirty, badly shaped or defectively shelled shall not be incubated.

(7) Where poultry on any licensed poultry farm from which eggs have been obtained or are likely to be obtained by a hatchery, exhibit evidence of any disease which in the opinion of the Ministry presents a hazard to the poultry industry the Ministry may require the acquisition or incubation of eggs from such licensed poultry farm to be discontinued until such time as the Ministry shall determine.

Distribution of chicks

7.—(1) Chicks shall not be retained in the hatchery for longer than 48 hours.

(2) Only healthy chicks free from deformity shall be distributed.

(3) Any boxes or containers used for the distribution of chicks shall be new and of a type approved by the Ministry except that boxes or containers specifically approved by the Ministry as suitable for re-use may be re-used provided that on each occasion prior to use they are cleansed and disinfected to a reasonable standard approved by the Ministry.

Identification of eggs and chicks

8. Every hatchery shall adopt a system of identification of eggs for incubation and hatching so that the chicks from eggs supplied from various sources can be identified up to the time they are sexed.

Records

9.—(1) Every hatchery shall keep records of:—

(*a*) names and addresses of the licensed poultry farms which supply eggs to them;

(*b*) numbers of eggs received and set;

(*c*) names and addresses of purchasers of chicks;

(*d*) number of chicks sold as breeding or commercial stock;

(*e*) breeds, strains or crosses;

(*f*) dates of all transactions;

(*g*) hatching results and culling;

(*h*) any treatment or fumigation of eggs and any treatment given to the chicks prior to leaving the hatchery.

(2) The records required by paragraph (1) shall be retained for not less than six months after the date on which the chicks to which they refer were despatched from the hatchery.

Furnishing of returns

10. The Ministry may require a hatchery to furnish periodically returns of records kept under Regulation 9 and such other returns as are required for the compilation of statistical information. The Ministry shall not divulge any information contained in the returns of an individual licence holder without his consent.

Notification of disease

11. A licence holder shall immediately notify the Ministry of any known outbreak of disease, any significant drop in hatchability, or any significant mortality among chicks in or supplied by his hatchery.

Disposal of carcases, faeces and other infective material

12. All incubator waste and dead chicks shall be disposed of in such a manner as to satisfy the Ministry; all weak, malformed and abnormal chicks and any surplus chicks shall before leaving the licensed premises be destroyed by a humane method and disposed of in a manner approved by the Ministry.

Submission of eggs, chicks and carcases

13. A licence holder shall on request submit to an authorised officer such eggs, chicks and carcases as may be reasonably required for the diagnosis of disease.

Cleansing and protection from disease

14.—(1) The cleansing, disinfection and sterilisation of the plant, equipment and utensils shall be carried out in a manner approved by the Ministry.

(2) There shall be a supply of clean water and an adequate supply of hot water or steam for the efficient cleansing of the premises, equipment and utensils.

(3) Windows or other openings shall be protected by a suitable screen against the entry of wild birds or vermin.

(4) Operatives and any other persons entering rooms containing eggs or chicks shall wear clean protective clothing.

(5) Vehicles used for the collection of eggs and the distribution of chicks shall be cleansed and disinfected to a reasonable standard approved by the Ministry.